United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3400 (NA-08-16)
Date: September 16, 2008

Subject: 2008 Pine Shoot Beetle Survey

To: Carl Zimmerman, Superintendent
Assateague Island National Seashore
Route 611, 7206 National Seashore Lane
Berlin, MD 21811

Starting in March 2008, personnel from this office began surveying for the pine shoot beetle on the Assateague Island National Seashore (AINS). During this survey we used a Lindgren funnel trap and lure to attract the beetle. No signs of pine shoot beetle were detected. However, the presence of the pine shoot beetle especially in its early stage of infestation is extremely difficult to detect.

The pine shoot beetle is an invasive beetle that has been detected in parts of 14 States (including Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Vermont, and West Virginia). Since its first detection in the early 1990's, this beetle has produced quarantines and regulations on the movement of pine commodities in 473 counties. Scotch pine is the principle host, but other pine species and conifers are susceptible to attack.

No pine shoot beetle was detected this year during this survey. The pine shoot beetle is a serious pest of pine in the Eastern United States. Educational information about this borer is available on the World Wide Web (http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/psb/index.shtml) through this office along with the Maryland Department of Agriculture. We hope that this information will be used throughout the Seashore. We would also request that your personnel work with this office to identify and survey pine resources located throughout the AINS.

Please remind National Park personnel that they have the primary responsibility for on-the-ground, initial detection of insect and/or disease outbreaks. We ask that all personnel continue to monitor for evidence of insect activity and tree defoliation, discoloration, and mortality in their areas and report any insect and disease activity to the Morgantown Field Office.

If you or any of your staff have any questions or comments regarding this survey, please contact Rick Turcotte (304) 285-1503.

Sincerely,

Bob Lueckel

ROBERT G. LUECKEL
Field Representative
Morgantown Field Office

Cc: Steve Tilly, MDA
Wayne Millington, NPS Eastern Region

RMT/AS